

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM POPPY CONTROLS

1. TIMING OF PRIMIN DEMIREL STATEMENT ON INCREASING
INDIVIDUAL FARMER POPPY CULTIVATION ALLOTMENTS UNFORTUNATE.
STATEMENT HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY US PRESS AND IS CAUSING
CONCERN IN CONGRESS.

2. WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE ON SUBJECT
WITH TRANSLATION OF OFFICIAL TEXT OF TURKISH ANNOUNCEMENT.

QUOTE: QUESTION - THERE IS A PRESS REPORT THAT TURKEY IS
PERMITTING A DOUBLING OF ACREAGE FOR POPPY CULTIVATION.
DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT?

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ANSWER: WE HAVE RECEIVED A REPORT FROM OUR EMBASSY IN ANKARA ON THIS, INCLUDING THE TEXT OF THE NEW TURKISH DECREE COVERING THE 1975-76 POPPY CROP (COPY OF DECREE ATTACHED).

POPPY CULTIVATION FOR THE 1975-76 YEAR WILL CONTINUE TO BE GOVERNED BY THE 1974 DECREE. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF PROVINCES OR IN THE MAXIMUM CULTIVATION AREA THE DECREE ALLOWED EACH FARMER. LAST YEAR THE FARMERS

WERE ALLOTTED A MAXIMUM OF FIVE DECARES (ABOUT 1.2 ACRES) BY THE DECREES, BUT ADMINISTRATIVELY THEY WERE ONLY PERMITTED TO GROW TWO DECARES (ABOUT 1/2 AN ACRE).

IN A RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN SPEECH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL INDICATED THAT FARMERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GROW THE MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, THE OFFICIAL DECREE FOR THE 1975-76 CROP, WHICH HAS JUST BEEN ISSUED, DID NOT MENTION ANY CHANGE IN POLICY ON INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS.

THEREFORE, THE CROP WILL BE GROWN IN THE SAME PROVINCES AND UNDER THE SAME CONTROLS. EVEN IF THERE IS TO BE SOME INCREASE IN THE ALLOTMENT FOR EACH LICENSED FARMER, THIS WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE CONTROL PROBLEM.

THE KEY TO THE MATTER IS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONTROLS OVER THE ACREAGE THAT IS PLANTED. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE CONTROL SYSTEM THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT APPLIED DURING THE HARVEST JUST COMPLETED. UN AND US EMBASSY OBSERVERS CONTINUE TO REPORT THAT THEY KNOW OF NO EVIDENCE WHATEVER OF ANY LEAKAGE FROM THE CURRENT CROP. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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